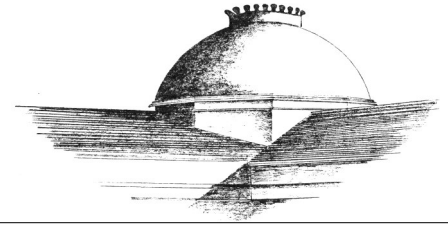


The Signal



Volume 10, Issue 3

March 2015

Joint Docent Meeting held in House Chamber

On February 16th a joint meeting of Executive Mansion and Capitol docents was held in the house chamber of the Capitol. The meeting included an introduction to new staff Capitol staff members Ken Peters and Kara Deadmon. Ken, who will be organizing tours at the Mansion, entertained the crowd with remarks about his childhood love of history. Frank Ragsdale, Capitol docent, then presented on the history of the Executive Mansion's silver punchbowl, commissioned for the state of North Carolina. Frank brought with him the silver bowl and ladle, and some of the piece's original plans. Trooper Jason Perdue, of the Governor's Executive Protection Team, then spoke with guests about situational awareness. Trooper Perdue gave safety tips relevant to volunteers, both at the Capitol and over at the Executive Mansion. The meeting was wrapped up with refreshments in the West Hall Committee Room.



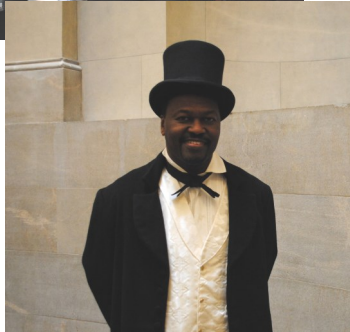
Frank Ragsdale and the silver punch bowl



Thanks to those that attended this meeting, in spite of the inclement weather!



With All Our Rights: Capitol Hosts Successful Living History Event



On Saturday, February 21st the Capitol hosted a living history encounter, where visitors could “meet” some of the members of North Carolina’s first black caucus. Three local actors were on hand, clad in period garb and representing Senator Abraham Galloway, Representative Parker D. Robbins, and Representative James Henry Harris. The gentlemen gave visitors some insights into the thoughts and feelings of these historic players, as they discussed their stances on the separation of races in the chambers, their political parties, and their individual lives. Visitors were welcome to ask questions of the men and were also encouraged to view North Carolina’s original copy of the 13th Amendment, displayed in the downstairs document case.



Costumes were provided via Laura J. Parker, Adrienne McKenzie, and the NC State University Theatre.

The Event’s Players:

- ◆ Warren Keyes as Rep. James Henry Harris
- ◆ Gil Faison as Sen. Abraham Galloway
- ◆ Phillip B. Smith as Rep. Parker D. Robbins

A special thanks to our weekend staff for their support during this event!

Tours Begin at the Executive Mansion this month!

Contact Ken Peters at ken.peters@ncdcr.gov with questions.



The Signal is published twelve times per year by the North Carolina State Capitol, Division of State Historic Sites, Department of Cultural Resources. It is emailed to all active State Capitol volunteers.



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March 2015

It's hard to believe, but spring is finally coming to the Capitol!


Sun
Mon
Tue
Wed
Thu
Fri
Sat

1  Heather Brose	2  Sally Greaser	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11  Janice Carlton	12	13	14
15	16	17	18  Gwen Reynolds	19	20 First day of Spring!	21 Under the Dome Discovery Tour 10:00am
22	23  Rick Walton	24	25	26	27	28 Under the Dome Discovery Tour 3:00pm
29	30	31  Vickie Goeking				

The Capitol staff would like to continue to extend their thanks to all Capitol volunteers!

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. The 2015 National theme is "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives." Throughout our nation's history, women have worked to improve the lives of others in their communities and beyond. Women of character, courage, and commitment can be found in all walks of life and industry, and in movements that have impacted our state and nation. Let us remember to recognize the achievements of women and encourage citizens to learn more about the role women have played, and continue to play, in North Carolina's history.



Female firsts: women in the chambers

- ◆ The first female legislator in NC was Lillian Exum Clement. In 1920 the Buncombe County Democratic Party asked 26-year-old Clement to run for a seat in the NC House. She defeated two male opponents in the primary election, winning the primary before she had the right to vote herself. When Clement won the general election, she became the first woman to serve in any state legislature in the South.
- ◆ In 1931 Gertrude Dills McKee became the first female state Senator in NC. While in the legislature, Mrs. McKee sat on a number of committees, including Appropriations; Education; Election Laws; Finance; Internal Improvements; Manufacturing, Labor, and Commerce, among others. As chairman of the Public Welfare Committee during each of her three terms, she pioneered model welfare programs. A vocal proponent of education, she constantly fought to equalize educational opportunities for children.
- ◆ The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women the right to vote. The approval of 36 states was needed to ratify the amendment; Tennessee became the thirty-sixth on August 18, 1920, fourteen months after the US Congress had passed it, making it law. NC, however, did not formally ratify the Amendment until 1971.



Two Under The Dome Discovery Tours to be offered in March

The next in the Under the Dome Discovery Tour series will feature history of women in the Capitol, recognizing March as National Women's History month. Tour dates are **Saturday, March 21st at 10:00am** and **Saturday, March 28th at 3:00pm**. Participants must be at least 10 years of age and comfortable climbing stairs and being in confined spaces. Tour size has been limited to 12, so participants must register and pay in advance. Tickets are \$17.00 each, which now includes tax.

A few volunteers are needed to help aid with these tours. Contact Terra, Kara, or Ken with questions.

What would you like to see in *The Signal*? If you have any tidbits or photos you'd like to add, feel free to email Kara at kara.deadmon@ncdcr.gov.



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